

C. APPLICANT'S COMMENTS

i. Claims

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-16, 18, 19 are pending in this Application, with 4, 5, 6, 9, 17 canceled, and with Claims 1, 18, 19 being amended. No new matter is added by way of these amendments, and the amendments are supported throughout the Specification and the drawings. Reconsideration of Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-16, 18, 19 is respectfully requested.

The Applicant has amended the features of Claim 17 into independent Claims 1, 18, 19. The Applicant has corrected an error in Claim 17 by changing "light sensor" to "optical sensor" which corresponds to the terminology as used in independent Claims 1, 18, 19. The Applicant respectfully submits that none of the prior art references teach the usage of an optical sensor within the platform for a sewing machine and that extends upon an upper surface of the sewing platform.

ii. Canadian Patent Application Filed Claiming Priority

The Applicant included a Nonpublication Request when this application was filed on March 10, 2004. On March 8, 2005, the Applicant filed a Canadian patent application directed to the invention disclosed in the present application. The Applicant has not yet received a serial number identifying the Canadian patent application, but can provide the same at a later date upon request by the USPTO. The Applicant respectfully submits that it is in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §122(b)(2)(B)(iii).

D. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case

to issuance. Alternatively should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, they are invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

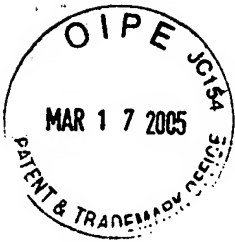


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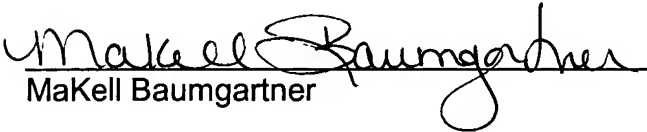
Attorney's Docket No. DUVA-001

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on March 14, 2005.


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